

## INFORMATION REPORT

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 and the EAM, 1948 - 1950  
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1. The Greek community institutions of Braila maintained their routine functions until the spring of 1948 when Eleftherios Apostolou, leader of the EAM in Rumania, made his influence felt.
2. The Committee of the Greek Community of Braila at that time was composed of George Portolos, President; Gregory Stathatos, vice president; G. Karadinos, general secretary; E. Majaris, treasurer, and Anastasios Stavraka, Constantine Pitaculis, and Dimitrios Tselenitis, counselors. From 1945 until the spring of 1948 there was the Acropolis chapter whose administrative council was composed of the following: Alexander Portolos, president; Evangelos Barzoukas, vice president; Constantine Dendrinios, secretary; Ioannis Mouzakis, treasurer; and Eustathios Drakopoulos, Stylianos Manouses, and Gerasimos Jakis as counselors.
3. In spring of 1948 the Acropolis chapter was forced to cease its activity because of threats by the EAM of Bucharest. It gave all its archives to the community council which later turned over all the files, including the community files, to the [redacted] Embassy which represented Greek interests in Rumania. 25X1
4. In April or May 1948, Apostolou arrived in Braila and after various discussions, forced the community council to give up its community property such as the church, schools, mess hall, as well as real estate and money to the EAM. As representatives he named X. Potamianos, T. Stephanides, M. Simon, and C. Phokas, who undertook to administer the community institutions as well as the administration of the newly introduced EAM in Braila. They forced the vice president, Gregory Stathatos, to remain until November 1948 in order for the former committee to work with the EAM.
5. Around the end of 1948, Stathatos resigned. Potamianos, who behaved well during his period as president before the Greek element, was accused by the EAM of administering the interests of a naval syndicate, of which he was president. He was imprisoned for several months and later released. In the meantime, Apostolou established a new committee of the EAM and named G. Kavillias, former guard at the Violatos flour mill as General Secretary; Michael Simon, graduate of the Greek gymnasium of Bucharest, Constantine Phokas, Jimmy Stefanici, Dimitri Theologides, and other Rumanians of Greek origin.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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as members. Their first job was to give up some property of the community to the Rumanian authorities. They were administrators of the church but the Greek people began avoiding the Greek church. Kavillas, with various machinations, sent the Greek priest to Dorohoi (a small town of Moldavia) under detention where he remained one year. At the end of April 1950 he returned.

6. The EAM was opposed by the Greek working elements. Those working in the various factories or trading offices were threatened with expulsion from their jobs if they did not enroll in the EAM. In spite of these pressures, the majority of the workers continued a passive resistance to the EAM and there were very few who participated in the meetings of the EAM, or heard the speeches of Apotolou.
7. In the spring of 1949 the EAM changed its name to the Greek Democratic Committee (Comitetul Democrat Grec) which automatically regarded all the Greek people of Rumania as its members. Resistance continued, but at the same time the meager means of support for every Greek began diminishing; household goods and clothing soon had to be sold. Those who did not owe the city anything made requests for repatriation, but their expedition took many months. The Greek element finding itself under such circumstances, began attending meetings of the EAM with the hope of finding work.
8. In the meantime, Kavillas and Phokas, were arrested by the Rumanian authorities and imprisoned. Kavillas was found to be a former legionnaire, and Phokas had entered the EAM for business reasons, and it was discovered that he was carrying on smuggling activities. The leaders of the EAM in December 1950 were Kourkounelis and K. Gelles who were being paid by the Communist Party of Rumania. In the past they had nothing in common with the Greek community. However, their behavior toward the Greek element was humane in spite of the previous attitude of Kavillas.
9. The ecclesiastical question concerned many of the leaders of the EAM, not from a religious viewpoint, but from an economic viewpoint. The EAM asked for institutions from the Communist Party of Rumania, which was paying the organization and the school, but not the church. The EAM asked that the administration of the church be given to certain "oppositionists" who had the sympathy of the entire community. They proceeded with this because they found themselves unable to cover the few expenses of the church.
10. On 4 December 1949, the following took over the administration of the church: Bustathos Drakopoulos, Gerasimos Jakis, Panagiotis Neophytos, Stratis Manousos, Constantine Pitaoulis, and Christos Leontos, with the condition that the organization would involve itself in ecclesiastical affairs. Until December 1950 the above persons kept their promises. The committee undertook to pay off all the debts of the church which came to a sum of 36,000 lei. From the day that the committee undertook the administration of the church, all the residents began going to church and within a short period the above sum was paid off.
11. In June or July 1950 about 1,500 guerrillas with their wives and children arrived in Braila.

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